

NEWS AND ROOS

from

GPA/THREE RIVERS GREYHOUNDS



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Future Proposals for Defunding/Decoupling Legislation and the Effect on Greyhound Racing

by Kyle Catanzarite

Much has been discussed and debated recently on defunding and decoupling legislation. After much deliberation and consideration, the Florida and West Virginia state legislatures failed to pass the bills for defunding of greyhound breeder subsidies in West Virginia and the decoupling of casino gambling from greyhound racing in both states.

Despite the outcome of the latest legislative session, the legislatures in both states are resolute in their mission to put an end to racing, or reduce considerably the number of racetracks in operation. This debate will continue!

The passage of defunding and decoupling legislation **may not** end greyhound racing completely, but it will provide casinos and racetracks with different options for how greyhound racing may be linked to slot machines and table games. But with each of the pieces of legislation, if approved, the fate of thousands of greyhounds will be impacted.

In order to understand defunding and decoupling in more depth, it's necessary to review the Florida and West Virginia legislation independently.

FLORIDA:

Florida is one of only seven states that still conducts live greyhound races. Casinos that are operating at racetracks throughout the state are required to offer live racing, according to an antiquated law, to maintain licensing for slots and table games.

Based on the results of a study by the Spectrum Gaming Group, the state loses an estimated \$3 million annually on racing, which is much less popular than it once was.

In the recently proposed Florida legislative bill for decoupling legislation, the Seminole Native American tribe in Florida proposed decoupling legislation that would no longer require live greyhound racing at racetracks where slots and table games are also available for gambling. A \$3 billion "incentive" that the Seminole tribe would pay to the state was in exchange for the Seminole tribe to have exclusive rights to operate casinos at various locations and to open other casinos as well.

Imbedded in the legislation was language that required more comprehensive and detailed reporting of racing injuries and regulations overseeing the humane treatment of the racing greyhounds. The racing industry maintains this will create even more revenue loss.

WEST VIRGINIA:

There are two racetracks located in Wheeling and Charleston where approximately 3,000 greyhounds from around the state are racing. Currently, breeders of these greyhounds receive a subsidy from the West Virginia Racing Commission to fund the purses offered for each race. While the breeders and the racing commission disagree on the percentage of the subsidy the racing commission provides, the fact is that defunding and decoupling legislation will continue to be under review for passage by the West Virginia legislature. Both bills are designed to eliminate all breeder subsidies and redirect the revenue to the state budget's general fund.

The first bill, known as the defunding bill, will eliminate completely all breeder subsidies for racing revenues but does not provide for decoupling greyhound racing from other forms of gambling in the casinos. In fact, decoupling cannot occur if the casinos are to retain video lottery and table gambling licenses.

The second bill, known as the decoupling bill, requires defunding of breeder subsidies but provides the option of maintaining or eliminating live greyhound racing while still offering slot machines and table games.

It is concerning to note that in none of the legislation proposed in Florida or West Virginia is there any mention of the impact that defunding and decoupling will have on greyhound welfare. When these bills, which have been under consideration and will continue to be revised and reviewed, are ultimately passed, the fate of thousands of greyhounds will be uncertain and will be dependent on the ability of the greyhound adoption community to unite and mobilize in an unprecedented way to meet a challenge never seen previously to this magnitude.

PERSPECTIVE

Regardless of your views on greyhound racing and whether or not you feel the defunding and decoupling legislation should or should not receive approval by the state legislatures in future sessions of the Florida and West Virginia legislature, every greyhound adoption group must begin to focus more time, energy, and resources on making preparations for finding ways to transport, foster and place increased numbers of greyhounds into forever homes. Despite what some in the greyhound welfare community are saying, this legislation is NOT just about the celebration of the probable demise of greyhound racing, it is also, and more importantly, about where the thousands of displaced greyhounds will go once the track lights dim for the last time!

HOW YOU CAN HELP?

GPA/Three Rivers Greyhounds is already developing preliminary plans to address the increasing numbers of greyhounds needing homes in the wake of the certain passage of defunding and decoupling legislation in Florida and West Virginia in future years. We will continue to monitor the activities of the greyhound racing industry for information on legislation that will lead to track closures. We encourage you to contact us, or another greyhound adoption group in your community, if you are interested in being part of the process of helping hounds find forever homes any day and every day!!



Providing A Foster Home – What Does It Take?

by Ruth Scheller

In light of the real possibility that decoupling legislation may pass in the future, adoptions groups all across the country will be challenged like never before. TRG will commit to taking as many dogs as we can, as often as we can, to do our part.

There will be occasions when we'll need foster homes, but we want to ensure you know what all is involved before volunteering for the job.

First and foremost, fostering is NOT easy! As we all know, it's easy to fall in love with each and every greyhound we meet. Be honest with yourself, can you emotionally handle caring for a dog for an extended period of time, knowing he's not going to stay with you? You have to be firm in your resolve, but there are few things in life more selfless than caring for a living thing that you will ultimately say goodbye to as he/she moves on to their permanent home.



Of course, there's no law that says you can't become the permanent adopter of your foster greyhound!

- By fostering a greyhound, you are assuming the responsibility to prepare that greyhound for life in a loving home. Don't fool yourself into thinking it will be fun to have another greyhound for a few weeks, you could easily be making a 6 month commitment. If you can foster a non cat-safe hound, you could have that dog for quite a while before someone without cats comes along to adopt him.
- Your house rules may not be the same as the eventual adopter's house rules; you need to be committed to keeping the dog OFF your furniture in case the new owner won't permit that.
- You need to be committed to crating the dog when left alone so that he hasn't become accustomed to having free reign and then balks at being crated again in his new home.
- Everything you would normally teach your own greyhound during the adjustment period, you'll need to teach the foster greyhound. Things like house-breaking, walking on smooth floors, navigating stairs, leash manners, counter surfing, nail trimming, teeth brushing.
- The foster greyhound should be out and about as often as possible, meeting new people and experiencing new things so he'll be better able to adapt to a change in environment.
- Don't forget the expense of another mouth to feed, and the additional clean up that comes along with it.

There is paperwork involved – we need to document where each and every dog in the TRG program is located, so you'll be required to sign a foster agreement.



It will also be very helpful for the new owner if you can prepare notes on things you've observed – what is his favorite toy, does she like to sleep in her crate, is he timid around strangers, how many hours have you left him alone with no issues, does she walk nicely on a leash, is he friendly around other dogs, has she interacted with any children.

You'll need to be available to bring your foster to the kennel to meet potential adopters, or have them in your home to meet your foster.

As you can see, there is a good bit to think about. Please don't feel that we are trying to discourage anyone from fostering. We just want to make sure you understand what's involved, and what you are getting yourself into. Fostering can be a very rewarding experience, but it can also be heart-breaking when your foster is ready to move on.

If you think you're up to the task, let us know. We will compile a list of potential foster homes to have at the ready.

**A Very Heartfelt Thank You
to
Contributors to TRG's Annual Holiday Campaign**

A total of \$2600 was raised during our holiday campaign, the highest amount ever! Your generosity and donations will help defray adoption and veterinary costs for greyhounds that come through our group. Thank you to the following~

Frances lafolla in memory of Rudy laofolla
Sandy Dtrychor and David Kost in honor of Peaches, in memory of Lynni
The Keat family in honor of Gracie the greyhound
Larry and Renie Mistick in memory of Nala
Jane C. Woods in honor of Rajah and Firefly, in memory of Gracie, Pharoah, Red and Tiye
Vince and Maryann Flot in honor of Sierra and Ollie, in memory of Annie
Linda Kostka, in honor of Greycie
Jennifer Krandel, in honor of Sophie
Pauline Peters, in honor of Louie
Anthony Lucerelli and Megan Gialluco, in honor of Arrow
Lisa and Denny Quaglieri, in honor of Cheyenne (the greytest addition to our family)
Jim Evans, in memory of Dolly
Bill and Sue Yanakos, in honor of Emma, Promise and Zoé
Jan Lacy
Mark and Lisa Paulson
Emmanuel and Carla DiNatale
Elizabeth Lacy and Bob Cameron
Debi Larson
Bev Stulen
Ansley and Dennis Earley
Ruth Scheller
Bill and Louise Evans

Bob and Kyle Catanarite
Scott and Ann Moyer
Kristi and Joe Serowik
Linda and Harry Smith
Jane Fahringer
Kristen Schnur
Charles Glynn



Remembering Those Hounds
that have recently crossed the Bridge . . .

Woody Scheller, loved by Ruth Scheller
Maz Passentino, loved by the Passentino family



Thank you to the following who have recently made donations to TRG ~

In memory of Betty Norton, Jane Fahringer's mother ~
Bill and Sue Yanakos
Ruth Scheller
Fran lafolla
Mark and Lisa Paulson
Bob and Kyle Catanarite
Bev Stulen
Vince and Maryann Flot

In memory of Maz by Paul and Diane Passantino to the Dara Smiles Fund
In honor of Mimi by Lynne Frank
Also, Joe Pelz, Ms. White, Chris Groetsch

Time is Ticking..... Don't let the Bugs get to you this summer!

With another relatively mild winter for 2015-2016, one item that greyhound caretakers should be aware of is the increase in the tick population and the potential for tick borne illnesses and infections to your furry family member.



Why so many ticks? The mild weather did not offer a prolonged period of freezing weather to kill most of the ticks, the food supply for deer and other host animals has been plentiful (and earlier), increasing numbers of deer live in the suburbs, and there is possibly a developing resistance to some flea and tick preventatives.

Your pet serves as a food supply for the tick. The tick will suck on your dog's blood and become engorged (filled with blood); if the insect stays attached to your dog for a prolonged period, it can infect your pup with bacteria that causes illness.

We, as caretakers, should be extra vigilant in protecting and/or seeking treatment for our beloved furkids! ALWAYS seek advice and treatment from your pet's veterinarian.

If you walk through wooded or grassy areas, make sure to check your greyhound for fleas and ticks following the activity. Greyhound owners are fortunate in that we don't have to comb through a long coat, but be vigilant. Even uncut high grass or weeds on your property may harbor these pests. These insects are small! (See picture.)



AND after you check your hound, check yourself too!

If you find a tick on your greyhound, remove it with a pair of tweezers or a device such as a "tick key" or "twister" that you can purchase from a pet supply store. Put the tick in a ziploc bag to show your veterinarian, and call or take your dog for an appointment as advised by the vet's office.

If your vet feels it necessary, your greyhound may be placed on an antibiotic and a blood test may be done later.

Remember to keep your greyhound up-to-date on preventatives. Holistic options may also be available.

TRG advises you to always consult a veterinary professional for health concerns and care of your greyhound.



Rock N' Roos Reunion Has Been Scheduled

Mark your calendars and set the date aside for our Annual Reunion!

WHEN: Saturday, May 21, 2016

WHERE: Blueberry Hill Community Center, Franklin Park, PA

We will send out an email with complete information in the next several weeks.

We hope that you will be able to join us! And of course, your greyhounds will be the special guests of the event!



Thank you to the following Sponsors for the 2016 Fore the Hounds Charity Golf Event!



Pet Valu Welcomes TRG TO MEET AND GREET

TRG volunteers will be busy in the month of April with newly scheduled meet and greets at two Pet Valu Stores (Wexford and McCandless) in the North Hills of Pittsburgh.

Below are some pictures of the greyt volunteers (and greyhounds) at the stores' grand openings in March.

Clowning around with Miss Glitter!



Taking a break & waiting for more admirers.



There's a bunny on your head!



Being adorable is exhausting.



CALLING ALL GOLFERS!!

There's still time to get a foursome together for the annual golf outing.
This was our biggest fundraiser in 2015.



When: Sunday May 1, 2016

Where: Olde Stonewall Golf Course, Ellwood City PA

Time: Registration from 11:30 – 1p.m., shotgun start at 1:30 p.m.

Cost: \$140 includes 18 hours of golf with cart, commemorative gift, snacks at the turn, sit down dinner, skill prizes, door prizes, individual and team prizes, and much more. There will be Silent and Chinese Auction Items.

Special Guests: Retired racing greyhounds will be on hand to sign your 'card'.

For more information, please contact Lisa Paulson at lilipaulson@gmail.com or call 412.956.5209



[Registration deadline is April 15th and click here](#) for registration form.

Newsletter Articles Needed

If you have a topic that you would like to share with our newsletter readers
OR

Is there some greyhound issue that you would like to hear about.....
then contact us at info@gpathreeriversgreyhounds.org to let us know.

CORRECTIONS?

Is there an error or omission that we should correct?

Please let us know.

Thank you.

GPA/Three Rivers Greyhounds Inc. is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. Your contribution made to Three Rivers Greyhounds in 2016 will be fully tax deductible, and 100% of your donation will be used to benefit greyhound adoption.